

Checkable Codes from Group Rings

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Abstract—We study codes with a single check element derived from group rings, namely, checkable codes. The notion of a code-checkable group ring is introduced. Necessary and sufficient conditions for a group ring to be code-checkable are given in the case where the group is a finite abelian group and the ring is a finite field. This characterization leads to many good examples, among which two checkable codes and two shortened codes have minimum distance better than the lower bound given in Grassl’s online table. Furthermore, when a group ring is code-checkable, it is shown that every code in such a group ring admits a generator, and that its dual is also generated by an element which may be deduced directly from a check element of the original code. These are analogous to the generator and parity-check polynomials of cyclic codes. In addition, the structures of reversible and complementary dual checkable codes are established as generalizations of reversible and complementary dual cyclic codes.

Index Terms—checkable code, group ring, Sylow p -subgroup, zero-divisor code, reversible code, complementary dual code.

I. INTRODUCTION

A group ring code is originally defined to be an ideal in the group ring FG , where F is a finite field and G is a finite group. When G is cyclic, this concept characterizes the classical cyclic codes over F . In general, when G is abelian, they are called abelian codes and have been studied by many authors (see [2]-[3], [15]-[16], and [5]).

Recently, new techniques for constructing codes have been established for an arbitrary group ring RG in [13], where R is an associative ring with identity $1 \neq 0$ and G is a finite group. For a submodule W of the R -module RG and a zero-divisor u in RG , a zero-divisor code generated by u relative to W is defined to be $\mathcal{C} := \{wu \mid w \in W\} = Wu$. Many existing codes coincide with special types of zero-divisor codes (cf. [13]-[14], and [18]).

One of the most interesting is a zero-divisor code determined by a single check element, i.e., there exists v in RG such that $\mathcal{C} = Wu = \{y \in RG \mid yv = 0\}$. Such a code is called a *checkable code* and the element v is called a *check element*. A group ring is said to be *code-checkable* if all its non-trivial ideals are checkable codes. These codes are of interest since they can be viewed as a generalization of the

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classical cyclic codes. For a finite field F and a cyclic group G of order n , $FG \cong F[X]/\langle X^n - 1 \rangle$ is a principal ideal ring, where $F[X]$ is the ring of polynomials over F . All ideals of FG are cyclic codes. Every non-trivial ideal is checkable, where the ideal is generated by the generator polynomial and the reciprocal polynomial of the parity-check polynomial acts as a check element. Therefore, FG is code-checkable.

We extend this study to the group ring FG , where F is a finite field and G is a finite abelian group. Necessary and sufficient conditions for FG to be code-checkable are determined. This characterization allows us to find various examples of good codes. Four new codes which have minimum distance better than the lower bound given in Grassl’s table [10] are presented. Many other examples found also have minimum distance as good as the best known ones in [10]. Furthermore, it is also shown that, when FG is a code-checkable group ring, every zero-divisor code in FG is of the form $FGu = \{y \in FG \mid yv = 0\}$ for some $u, v \in FG$, and that its dual is given by $FGv^{(-1)}$, where $v^{(-1)}$ is defined to be $v^{(-1)} = \sum_{g \in G} v_{g^{-1}g}$ for $v = \sum_{g \in G} v_{gg}$. As seen above, when G is a cyclic group, i.e., in the case of cyclic codes over F , u and $v^{(-1)}$ may be regarded as the analogs of the generator and parity-check polynomials. In this sense, the class of codes studied in this paper can be regarded as a generalization of cyclic codes. Indeed, when G is a finite abelian group, the group ring FG is isomorphic to some $F[X_1, \dots, X_t]/\langle X_1^{n_1} - 1, \dots, X_t^{n_t} - 1 \rangle$ (cf. [6]), so the elements u and $v^{(-1)}$ may be regarded as the multivariate generator and parity-check polynomials of a checkable abelian code. Moreover, we derive the structures of reversible and complementary dual checkable codes which may have application in certain data storage, computing, and retrieval systems. These codes are generalizations of reversible and complementary dual cyclic codes (cf. [1], [17], and [21]).

The paper is organized as follows. Some basic concepts and necessary terminologies are introduced in Section II. In Section III, we present a characterization of code-checkable group rings together with some related properties. We provide structural characterizations of reversible and complementary dual checkable codes in Section IV. In Section V, some examples from the family of checkable codes and their modifications are discussed, including four new codes and numerous good codes. Finally, we conclude with a summary of results in Section VI.

II. PRELIMINARIES

In order for the exposition in this paper to be self-contained, we introduce some basic concepts and necessary terminologies used later in this paper. The readers may find further details in [7]-[9], [13]-[14], and [19].

A. Groups and Group Rings

Let G be a finite group and p a prime number. If G is of order $p^a m$, where a is a non-negative integer and m is a positive integer such that $p \nmid m$, then a subgroup of order p^a is called a *Sylow p-subgroup* of G .

Throughout, we assume that G is abelian of order n , written multiplicatively (with identity 1). Let \mathbf{F} denote a finite field of characteristic p and denote by $\mathbf{F}G$ the *group ring* of G over \mathbf{F} . The elements in $\mathbf{F}G$ will be written as $\sum_{g \in G} \alpha_g g$, where $\alpha_g \in \mathbf{F}$, and the addition and the multiplication are given by

$$\sum_{g \in G} \alpha_g g + \sum_{g \in G} \beta_g g := \sum_{g \in G} (\alpha_g + \beta_g) g$$

and

$$\left(\sum_{g \in G} \alpha_g g \right) \left(\sum_{h \in G} \beta_h h \right) := \sum_{g, h \in G} (\alpha_g \beta_h) gh.$$

Obviously, $\mathbf{F}G$ is an \mathbf{F} -vector space with a basis G , where the scalar multiplication is defined by

$$r \sum_{g \in G} \alpha_g g := \sum_{g \in G} (r \alpha_g) g,$$

for all $r \in \mathbf{F}$ and $\sum_{g \in G} \alpha_g g \in \mathbf{F}G$. As G is abelian, the group ring $\mathbf{F}G$ is commutative.

Let $\{g_1, g_2, \dots, g_n\}$ be a fixed list of the elements in G and $M_n(\mathbf{F})$ denote the ring of $n \times n$ matrices over \mathbf{F} . For $u = \sum_{i=1}^n u_{g_i} g_i \in \mathbf{F}G$, let $U \in M_n(\mathbf{F})$ be defined by

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} u_{g_1^{-1} g_1} & u_{g_1^{-1} g_2} & \cdots & u_{g_1^{-1} g_n} \\ u_{g_2^{-1} g_1} & u_{g_2^{-1} g_2} & \cdots & u_{g_2^{-1} g_n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ u_{g_n^{-1} g_1} & u_{g_n^{-1} g_2} & \cdots & u_{g_n^{-1} g_n} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (\text{II.1})$$

The map $\tau : \mathbf{F}G \rightarrow M_n(\mathbf{F})$ given by

$$u \mapsto U^T,$$

where U^T is the transpose of U , is well-known as a *left regular representation* of $\mathbf{F}G$ (cf. [8, Chapter 2], and [19, Example 4.1.6]). This representation plays a vital role in studying the generator and parity-check matrices of codes mentioned later.

An element $a \in \mathbf{F}G$ is called a *unit* if there exists $b \in \mathbf{F}G$ such that $ab = 1$. A non-zero element $u \in \mathbf{F}G$ is called a *zero-divisor* if there exists $0 \neq v \in \mathbf{F}G$ such that $uv = 0$. For a non-empty subset S of $\mathbf{F}G$, the *annihilator* of S is defined to be $\text{Ann}(S) = \{x \in \mathbf{F}G \mid xs = 0, \text{ for all } s \in S\}$. Note that $\text{Ann}(S)$ is an ideal of $\mathbf{F}G$. When $S = \{s\}$, we simply denote by $\text{Ann}(s)$ the annihilator $\text{Ann}(S)$. An ideal I of $\mathbf{F}G$ is said to be *non-trivial* if $\{0\} \subsetneq I \subsetneq \mathbf{F}G$ and it is said to be *principal* if it is generated by a single element. We say that $\mathbf{F}G$ is a *principal ideal ring (PIR)* if every ideal of $\mathbf{F}G$ is principal.

In the light of the main result in [9], a characterization of principal ideal group rings is given as follows.

Theorem 2.1 ([9]): Let G be a finite abelian group and \mathbf{F} a finite field of characteristic p . Then $\mathbf{F}G$ is a PIR if and only if a Sylow p -subgroup of G is cyclic.

B. Codes from Group Rings

A zero-divisor code has been introduced for arbitrary group rings in [14]. We recall this concept for a commutative group ring $\mathbf{F}G$ as follows:

Let W be a subspace of the \mathbf{F} -vector space $\mathbf{F}G$ and let u be a zero-divisor in $\mathbf{F}G$. The *zero-divisor code* \mathcal{C} generated by u relative to W is defined to be $\mathcal{C} := \{wu \mid w \in W\} = Wu$. The element u is called a *generator element* for \mathcal{C} .

Given a zero-divisor code $\mathcal{C} = Wu$, then there exists $0 \neq v \in \mathbf{F}G$ such that $uv = 0$ and hence $c v = 0$ for all $c \in \mathcal{C}$. If there is an element $v \in \mathbf{F}G$ such that $\mathcal{C} = \{y \in \mathbf{F}G \mid yv = 0\} = \text{Ann}(v)$, the code \mathcal{C} is said to be *checkable* and the element v is called a *check element* of \mathcal{C} . We note that a check element for a code does not need to be unique. The group ring $\mathbf{F}G$ is said to be *code-checkable* if every non-trivial ideal of $\mathbf{F}G$ is a checkable code.

Let u be a zero-divisor in $\mathbf{F}G$ and U its corresponding matrix defined in (II.1). Assume that W is a subspace of $\mathbf{F}G$ with a basis $S \subseteq G$ such that Su is linearly independent. If $|S| = k$, then $\text{rank}(U) = k$ if and only if the code $\mathcal{C} = Wu$ is an ideal of $\mathbf{F}G$, equivalently, $\mathcal{C} = \mathbf{F}Gu$ (see [14, Theorem 7.2]).

To determine whether $\mathbf{F}G$ is code-checkable, it suffices to consider all zero-divisor codes \mathcal{C} where $\mathcal{C} = \mathbf{F}Gu$. From this characterization, a generator matrix for \mathcal{C} can be defined to be any k linearly independent rows of U .

A zero-divisor $u \in \mathbf{F}G$ is called *principal* if there exists $0 \neq v \in \mathbf{F}G$ such that $uv = 0$ and $\text{rank}(V) = n - \text{rank}(U)$, where U and V are the corresponding matrices of u and v , respectively. The following characterization is proved in [14].

Lemma 2.2 ([14, Corollary 4.1]): Let u be a zero-divisor in $\mathbf{F}G$. Then the zero-divisor code $\mathbf{F}Gu$ is checkable if and only if u is principal.

In this case, it is easy to see that the corresponding element v is a check element of \mathcal{C} . As $uv = 0$, it follows that $UV = 0$. Hence, by the rank condition, a parity-check matrix for \mathcal{C} can be defined to be any $n - k$ linearly independent columns of V .

For $a = \sum_{g \in G} a_g g$ and $b = \sum_{g \in G} b_g g$ in $\mathbf{F}G$, let $\langle a, b \rangle$ denote the *Euclidean inner product* of the coefficient vectors of a and b , i.e.,

$$\langle a, b \rangle = \sum_{g \in G} a_g b_g.$$

For a code $\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathbf{F}G$, the *dual code* \mathcal{C}^\perp of \mathcal{C} is defined by

$$\mathcal{C}^\perp = \{a \in \mathbf{F}G \mid \langle a, c \rangle = 0 \text{ for all } c \in \mathcal{C}\}.$$

III. CHECKABLE CODES AND CODE-CHECKABLE GROUP RINGS

In this section, we present the main results of this paper. A characterization of code-checkable group rings and some relevant properties are given.

Proposition 3.1: Let \mathbf{F} be a finite field and G a finite abelian group. Then $\mathbf{F}G$ is code-checkable if and only if it is a PIR.

Proof: Assume that $\mathbf{F}G$ is code-checkable. Let I be an arbitrary ideal of $\mathbf{F}G$. If I is $\{0\}$ or $\mathbf{F}G$, it is principal. Assume

that I is non-trivial. Then there exists a zero-divisor $v \in \mathbf{F}G$ such that $I = \text{Ann}(v)$. Then

$$\mathbf{F}G/\text{Ann}(v) \cong \mathbf{F}Gv. \quad (\text{III.1})$$

Next, we show I is principal. Since $\{0\} \subsetneq \mathbf{F}Gv \subsetneq \mathbf{F}G$, there exists $0 \neq u \in \mathbf{F}G$ such that $\mathbf{F}Gv = \text{Ann}(u)$. We claim that $\mathbf{F}Gu = \text{Ann}(v)$. It is clear that $\mathbf{F}Gu \subseteq \text{Ann}(v)$. By (III.1), we have that

$$|\mathbf{F}G/\text{Ann}(v)| = |\mathbf{F}Gv| \text{ and } |\mathbf{F}G/\text{Ann}(u)| = |\mathbf{F}Gu|.$$

Since $\mathbf{F}G$ is finite, it follows that

$$|\mathbf{F}Gu| = |\mathbf{F}G|/|\text{Ann}(u)| = |\mathbf{F}G|/|\mathbf{F}Gv| = |\text{Ann}(v)|.$$

Hence, $I = \text{Ann}(v) = \mathbf{F}Gu$. Therefore, $\mathbf{F}G$ is a PIR.

Conversely, assume that $\mathbf{F}G$ is a PIR. Let \mathfrak{J} denote the set of all non-trivial ideals of $\mathbf{F}G$. From the finiteness of $\mathbf{F}G$, it follows that $|\mathfrak{J}|$ is finite. Let $\sigma : \mathfrak{J} \rightarrow \mathfrak{J}$ be defined by

$$\mathbf{F}Ga \mapsto \text{Ann}(a).$$

Clearly, for each $c \in \mathbf{F}G$, we have $\text{Ann}(\mathbf{F}Gc) = \text{Ann}(c)$. Hence, if $\mathbf{F}Ga = \mathbf{F}Gb$, then

$$\text{Ann}(a) = \text{Ann}(\mathbf{F}Ga) = \text{Ann}(\mathbf{F}Gb) = \text{Ann}(b).$$

This implies that the mapping σ is well-defined.

To show that σ is injective, assume that $\sigma(\mathbf{F}Ga) = \sigma(\mathbf{F}Gb)$, i.e., $\text{Ann}(a) = \text{Ann}(b)$. Since $\mathbf{F}G$ is a PIR, there exists $0 \neq v \in \mathbf{F}G$ such that $\text{Ann}(a) = \text{Ann}(b) = \mathbf{F}Gv$, and hence $\mathbf{F}Ga = \text{Ann}(v) = \mathbf{F}Gb$.

Since $|\mathfrak{J}|$ is finite, σ is bijective. This implies that every non-trivial ideal of $\mathbf{F}G$ is a checkable code. ■

A characterization of code-checkable group rings follows immediately from Theorem 2.1 and Proposition 3.1.

Theorem 3.2: Let G be a finite abelian group and \mathbf{F} a finite field of characteristic p , where p is a prime number. Then the group ring $\mathbf{F}G$ is code-checkable if and only if a Sylow p -subgroup of G is cyclic.

When $\mathbf{F}G$ is a code-checkable group ring, Proposition 3.1 and its proof also provide a link between a checkable code in $\mathbf{F}G$ and its dual. The following result is found in [14, Theorem 4.6]. Here, we give an alternative proof.

For $v = \sum_{g \in G} v_g g \in \mathbf{F}G$, we define $v^{(-1)} = \sum_{g \in G} v_{g^{-1}} g$.

Corollary 3.3: Let $\mathbf{F}G$ be a code-checkable group ring. Every non-trivial ideal in $\mathbf{F}G$ is of the form $\mathbf{F}Gu = \text{Ann}(v)$, for some $u, v \in \mathbf{F}G$. Its dual code is given by $\mathbf{F}Gv^{(-1)}$.

Proof: The fact that every non-trivial ideal in $\mathbf{F}G$ is of the form $\mathcal{C} = \mathbf{F}Gu = \text{Ann}(v)$ is already shown in the proof of Proposition 3.1. For such a code \mathcal{C} , we now show that $\mathcal{C}^\perp = \mathbf{F}Gv^{(-1)}$.

Write $u = \sum_{g \in G} u_g g$ and $v = \sum_{h \in G} v_h h$. Hence

$$0 = uv = \sum_{k \in G} \left(\sum_{g \in G} u_g v_{g^{-1}k} \right) k,$$

which implies that $\sum_{g \in G} u_g v_{g^{-1}k} = 0$ for all $k \in G$.

The typical element in $\mathbf{F}Gu$ is of the form

$$\left(\sum_{h \in G} x_h h \right) \left(\sum_{g \in G} u_g g \right) = \sum_{k \in G} \left(\sum_{g \in G} u_g x_{g^{-1}k} \right) k.$$

We have that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k \in G} \left(\sum_{g \in G} u_g x_{g^{-1}k} \right) v_{k^{-1}} &= \sum_{g \in G} \left(\sum_{k \in G} x_{g^{-1}k} v_{k^{-1}} \right) u_g \\ &= \sum_{k \in G} \left(\sum_{g \in G} u_g v_{g^{-1}k} \right) x_{k^{-1}} \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

This shows that $\mathbf{F}Gv^{(-1)} \subseteq \mathcal{C}^\perp$.

It is easy to observe that $v \mapsto v^{(-1)}$ induces an isomorphism of groups $\mathbf{F}Gv \cong \mathbf{F}Gv^{(-1)}$. From the proof of Proposition 3.1, we have that $|\mathbf{F}G|/|\mathbf{F}Gu| = |\mathbf{F}Gv| = |\mathbf{F}Gv^{(-1)}|$. It therefore follows that $\mathbf{F}Gv^{(-1)} = \mathcal{C}^\perp$. ■

Corollary 3.4: If $\mathbf{F}Gu$ is checkable with a check element v , then $|\mathbf{F}Gu| = |\mathbf{F}Gu^{(-1)}|$, $|\mathbf{F}Gv| = |\mathbf{F}Gv^{(-1)}|$, and $|\mathbf{F}G| = |\mathbf{F}Gu| \cdot |\mathbf{F}Gv|$.

Proof: It follows immediately from Corollary 3.3 and its proof. ■

IV. SOME SPECIAL TYPES OF CHECKABLE CODES

In this section, we assume that a group ring $\mathbf{F}G$ is code-checkable and study the structure of some special types of checkable codes which may have application in certain data storage, computing, and retrieval systems.

A. Reversible Checkable Codes

For an abelian group G of order n , let $\mathcal{L} = \{g_1, g_2, \dots, g_n\}$ denote a fixed list of the elements in G . For $w = \sum_{i=1}^n w_i g_i$, the reverse of w with respect to \mathcal{L} , denote by $r_{\mathcal{L}}(w)$, is defined to be $r_{\mathcal{L}}(w) := \sum_{i=1}^n w_{n+1-i} g_i$. A code $\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathbf{F}G$ is said to be *reversible* with respect to \mathcal{L} if $r_{\mathcal{L}}(w) \in \mathcal{C}$ whenever $w \in \mathcal{C}$. If the list \mathcal{L} satisfies

$$k = g_{n-(i-1)} g_i, \quad (\text{IV.1})$$

for some fixed $k \in G$, and for every $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$, then $r_{\mathcal{L}}(w)$ is of the form

$$\begin{aligned} r_{\mathcal{L}}(w) &= \sum_{i=1}^n w_{n+1-i} g_i = \sum_{i=1}^n w_i g_{n+1-i} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n w_i k g_i^{-1} = k \sum_{i=1}^n w_i g_i^{-1} = kw^{(-1)}, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{IV.2})$$

for all $w \in \mathbf{F}G$.

Example 4.1: Let $G = C_{n_1} \times C_{n_2} \times \dots \times C_{n_r}$ denote a finite abelian group of order $n = n_1 n_2 \dots n_r$ written as the product of cyclic groups $C_{n_j} = \langle x_j \rangle$. Define the list $\{g_1, g_2, \dots, g_n\}$ of G by

$$g_{j_1 + j_2 + \dots + j_r} = x_1^{j_1} x_2^{j_2} \dots x_r^{j_r}, \quad (\text{IV.3})$$

where $0 \leq j_i < n_i$ for all $1 \leq i \leq r$. Then $g_1 = 1$, the identity of G , and $g_n = g_{n-(i-1)} g_i$ for all $1 \leq i \leq n$. Hence, this list

satisfies (IV.1), where $k = g_n$. Note that if $G = \langle x \rangle$ is cyclic of order n , the list represents $\{1, x, x^2, \dots, x^{n-1}\}$ which corresponds to the set of monomials $\{1, X, X^2, \dots, X^{n-1}\}$ in $\mathbf{F}[X]/\langle X^n - 1 \rangle$.

Throughout this section, we study reversible checkable codes with respect to a list \mathcal{L} satisfying (IV.1).

To complete a characterization of reversible checkable codes, we need the following lemmas.

Lemma 4.2 ([11, Lemma 1.1]): Given $a \in \mathbf{F}G$, then the set of generators of $\mathbf{F}Ga$ is $\mathcal{U}(\mathbf{F}G)a$, where $\mathcal{U}(\mathbf{F}G)$ is the set of units in $\mathbf{F}G$.

Lemma 4.3: Let a and b be elements in $\mathbf{F}G$. Then $\mathbf{F}Ga = \mathbf{F}Gb$ if and only if $a = fb$ for some unit f in $\mathbf{F}G$.

Proof: Assume that $\mathbf{F}Ga = \mathbf{F}Gb$. Note that a is a generator of $\mathbf{F}Gb$. Then, by Lemma 4.2, $a \in \mathcal{U}(\mathbf{F}G)b$ which implies that $a = fb$ for some unit $f \in \mathbf{F}G$.

Conversely, assume that $a = fb$ for some unit f in $\mathbf{F}G$. Then $\mathbf{F}Ga = \mathbf{F}Gb \subseteq \mathbf{F}Gb = \mathbf{F}Gf^{-1}a \subseteq \mathbf{F}Ga$. Therefore, $\mathbf{F}Ga = \mathbf{F}Gb$ as desired. ■

Theorem 4.4: Let \mathcal{L} be a fixed list of G satisfying (IV.1). Let $\mathbf{F}Gu$ be a checkable code with a check element v . Then the following statements are equivalent:

- i) $\mathbf{F}Gu$ is reversible with respect to \mathcal{L} .
- ii) $\mathbf{F}Gu = \mathbf{F}Gu^{(-1)}$.
- iii) $u = au^{(-1)}$ for some unit a in $\mathbf{F}G$.
- iv) $v = bv^{(-1)}$ for some unit b in $\mathbf{F}G$.
- v) $\mathbf{F}Gv = \mathbf{F}Gv^{(-1)}$.
- vi) $\mathbf{F}Gv$ is reversible with respect to \mathcal{L} .

Proof: We prove $i) \Rightarrow ii) \Rightarrow iii) \Rightarrow i)$, $iii) \Leftrightarrow iv)$, and $iv) \Rightarrow v) \Rightarrow vi) \Rightarrow iv)$. To prove $i) \Rightarrow ii)$, assume that $\mathbf{F}Gu$ is reversible with respect to \mathcal{L} . Since $\mathbf{F}G$ contains 1, $ku^{(-1)} = r_{\mathcal{L}}(u) \in \mathbf{F}Gu$. Then $u^{(-1)} = k^{-1}r_{\mathcal{L}}(u) \in \mathbf{F}Gu$, i.e. $\mathbf{F}Gu^{(-1)} \subseteq \mathbf{F}Gu$. Since, by Corollary 3.4, they have the same cardinality, we conclude that $\mathbf{F}Gu^{(-1)} = \mathbf{F}Gu$.

The proof of $ii) \Rightarrow iii)$ is immediate from Lemma 4.3.

To prove $iii) \Rightarrow i)$, assume that there exists a unit $a \in \mathbf{F}G$ such that $u = au^{(-1)}$. Let $wu \in \mathbf{F}Gu$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} r_{\mathcal{L}}(wu) &= k(wu)^{(-1)} = kw^{(-1)}u^{(-1)} \\ &= (kw^{(-1)}a^{-1})u \in \mathbf{F}Gu. \end{aligned}$$

This shows that $\mathbf{F}Gu$ is reversible.

Next, we prove $iii) \Leftrightarrow iv)$. Assume that $u = au^{(-1)}$ for some unit a in $\mathbf{F}G$. Since $0 = uv = au^{(-1)}v = u^{(-1)}(av)$ and $v^{(-1)}$ is a check element of $\mathbf{F}Gu^{(-1)}$, we have $av \in \mathbf{F}Gv^{(-1)}$. As a is a unit, $v \in \mathbf{F}Gv^{(-1)}$. Then, by Corollary 3.4, $\mathbf{F}Gv = \mathbf{F}Gv^{(-1)}$. Therefore, by Lemma 4.3, there exists a unit b in $\mathbf{F}G$ such that $v = bv^{(-1)}$. The converse is proved using similar arguments.

The equivalence $iv) \Rightarrow v) \Rightarrow vi) \Rightarrow iv)$ is proved similar to $iii) \Rightarrow ii) \Rightarrow i) \Rightarrow iii)$. ■

Remark 4.5: To verify whether $\mathbf{F}Gu$ is reversible, by the condition ii), it is equivalent to checking if $u^{(-1)} \in \mathbf{F}Gu$.

When $G = \langle x \rangle$, we know that any non-trivial cyclic code corresponds to some checkable code in $\mathbf{F}G$. According to [17], a cyclic code is said to be *reversible* if its corresponding checkable code is reversible with respect to the list $\{1, x, x^2, \dots, x^{n-1}\}$.

For a polynomial $f(X) = f_0 + f_1X + \dots + X^t \in \mathbf{F}[X]$ with $f_0 \neq 0$, the *reciprocal polynomial* of $f(X)$ is defined to be $f^*(X) := f_0^{-1}X^tf\left(\frac{1}{X}\right)$. The polynomial $f(X)$ is said to be self-reciprocal if $f(X) = f^*(X)$. Then the following corollary is immediate from Theorem 4.4.

Corollary 4.6 ([17, Theorem 1]): The cyclic code generated by a monic polynomial $g(X)$ is reversible if and only if $g(X)$ is self-reciprocal.

B. Complementary Dual Checkable Codes

In this subsection, we study the structure of a checkable code $\mathbf{F}Gu$ with $\mathbf{F}Gu \cap (\mathbf{F}Gu)^\perp = \{0\}$, namely, a *complementary dual code* (cf. [21]). We focus on the case where the characteristic p of \mathbf{F} does not divide the order n of G which is a common restriction as in the study of simple root cyclic codes.

Under this restriction, the group ring $\mathbf{F}G$ is always code-checkable since the Sylow p -subgroup of G is trivial. Moreover, $p \nmid n$ if and only if $\mathbf{F}G$ is semi-simple (cf. [20, Chapter 2: Theorem 4.2]). See [19] and [20] for further details.

We recall a special ideal of $\mathbf{F}G$ which is key to characterizing the structure of complementary dual checkable codes. An ideal A of $\mathbf{F}G$ is called a *nil ideal* if, for each $a \in A$, there exists a positive integer r such that $a^r = 0$. By the finiteness of $\mathbf{F}G$ and [19, Theorem 2.7.14 and Theorem 2.7.16], the nil ideal characterizes semi-simplicity of $\mathbf{F}G$ as follows.

Lemma 4.7: A finite group ring $\mathbf{F}G$ is semi-simple if and only if it has no non-zero nil ideals.

Corollary 4.8: If $\mathbf{F}Gu$ is checkable with a check element v , then $\mathbf{F}Gu \cap \mathbf{F}Gv = \{0\}$.

Proof: Let $w \in \mathbf{F}Gu \cap \mathbf{F}Gv$. Then $w = au = bv$ for some $a, b \in \mathbf{F}G$. Hence, $w^2 = aubv = (ab)(uv) = 0$ which implies that $\mathbf{F}Gu \cap \mathbf{F}Gv$ is a nil ideal. As $\mathbf{F}G$ is semi-simple, $\mathbf{F}Gu \cap \mathbf{F}Gv = \{0\}$ by Lemma 4.7. ■

Theorem 4.9: Let $\mathbf{F}Gu$ be checkable with a check element v and \mathcal{L} a list of G satisfying (IV.1). Then the following statements are equivalent.

- i) $\mathbf{F}Gu$ is a complementary dual code.
- ii) $\mathbf{F}Gu$ is a reversible code with respect to \mathcal{L} .
- iii) $\mathbf{F}Gv$ is a complementary dual code.

Proof: To prove $i) \Rightarrow ii)$, assume that $\mathbf{F}Gu$ is a complementary dual code. Applying Corollary 3.3, we obtain $\{0\} = \mathbf{F}Gu \cap (\mathbf{F}Gu)^\perp = \mathbf{F}Gu \cap \mathbf{F}Gv^{(-1)}$ which implies $\mathbf{F}G = \mathbf{F}Gu \oplus \mathbf{F}Gv^{(-1)}$. Since, by Corollary 4.8, $\mathbf{F}Gu \cap \mathbf{F}Gv = \{0\}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{F}Gv &= \mathbf{F}G \cap \mathbf{F}Gv \\ &= (\mathbf{F}Gu \cap \mathbf{F}Gv) \oplus (\mathbf{F}Gv^{(-1)} \cap \mathbf{F}Gv) \\ &= \mathbf{F}Gv^{(-1)} \cap \mathbf{F}Gv. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, $\mathbf{F}Gv \subseteq \mathbf{F}Gv^{(-1)}$. Since, by Corollary 3.4, they have the same cardinality, it follows that $\mathbf{F}Gv = \mathbf{F}Gv^{(-1)}$. Therefore, $\mathbf{F}Gu$ is reversible by Theorem 4.4.

To prove $ii) \Rightarrow i)$, assume that $\mathbf{F}Gu$ is reversible with respect to \mathcal{L} . Let $w \in \mathbf{F}Gu \cap (\mathbf{F}Gu)^\perp$. Then, by Corollary 3.3 and Theorem 4.4, $w \in \mathbf{F}Gu \cap \mathbf{F}Gv^{(-1)} = \mathbf{F}Gu \cap \mathbf{F}Gv$.

We have $w = 0$ by Corollary 4.8. Therefore, $\mathbf{F}Gu$ is a complementary dual code.

By Theorem 4.4, *ii)* holds if and only if $\mathbf{F}Gv$ is reversible, which is equivalent to that $\mathbf{F}Gv$ is a complementary dual code. This proves *ii) \Leftrightarrow iii).* ■

Corollary 4.10 ([21, Corollary]): Let \mathbf{F} be a finite field of characteristic p , and n a positive integer such that $p \nmid n$. Then a cyclic code of length n over \mathbf{F} is a complementary dual code if and only if it is reversible.

V. EXAMPLES

Many different interesting examples arise from the family of checkable codes from group rings. In this section, we discuss some of these examples based on Theorem 3.2. We show that various *Maximum Distance Separable (MDS) codes*, $[n, k, d]$ linear codes attaining the Singleton bound $d \leq n - k + 1$, are checkable. Moreover, numerous good checkable codes and new codes are illustrated as well.

A. Some MDS Checkable Codes

Given a positive integer n , we show that $[n, 1, n]$ and $[n, n-1, 2]$ MDS codes can be constructed as zero-divisor codes. In many cases, they are checkable.

Lemma 5.1: Given a finite field \mathbf{F} and a finite abelian group G , then the element $\sum_{g \in G} g$ is always a zero-divisor in the group ring $\mathbf{F}G$.

Proof: This follows since $(1 - g') \sum_{g \in G} g = 0$, for all $g' \in G \setminus \{1\}$, where 1 is the group identity in G . ■

Corollary 5.2: Given a finite field \mathbf{F} and a finite abelian group G of order n , then there exists an $[n, 1, n]$ zero-divisor MDS code constructed from the group ring $\mathbf{F}G$.

Proof: From Lemma 5.1, $\sum_{g \in G} g$ is a zero divisor in $\mathbf{F}G$. It is easy to see that the associated U of $u = \sum_{g \in G} g$ is the all 1's $n \times n$ -matrix. Therefore, the code generated by u is obviously $\{\lambda(1 \dots 1) \mid \lambda \in \mathbf{F}\}$, an $[n, 1, n]$ MDS code over \mathbf{F} . ■

Corollary 5.3: Let \mathbf{F} be a finite field of characteristic p and let G be a finite abelian group of order n . If a Sylow p -subgroup of G is cyclic, then there exist checkable $[n, 1, n]$ and $[n, n-1, 2]$ MDS codes from the group ring $\mathbf{F}G$.

Proof: By Corollary 5.2, the code \mathcal{C} generated by $\sum_{g \in G} g$ is an $[n, 1, n]$ MDS code. Assume that a Sylow p -subgroup of G is cyclic. From Theorem 3.2, it follows that \mathcal{C} and its dual \mathcal{C}^\perp are checkable. Since \mathcal{C} is MDS, \mathcal{C}^\perp is again MDS with parameters $[n, n-1, 2]$. ■

Remark 5.4: Since $(\sum_{g \in G} g)^{(-1)} = (\sum_{g \in G} g)$, the $[n, 1, n]$ MDS code generated by $\sum_{g \in G} g$ and its dual are reversible by Theorem 4.4. Moreover, if the characteristic of \mathbf{F} does not divide n , then, by Theorem 4.9, they are complementary dual.

B. Good Codes from Code-Checkable Group Rings

We illustrate some good examples of checkable codes. Let \mathbf{F}_q denote the finite field of order q with characteristic p and let G be an abelian group of order n . When G is a cyclic group,

we know that checkable codes from the group ring $\mathbf{F}_q G$ are the classical cyclic codes. Hence, we consider examples only in the case where G is a non-cyclic abelian group such that a Sylow p -subgroup of G is cyclic, i.e., $\mathbf{F}G$ is code-checkable.

With the help of the computer algebra system MAGMA [4], generator elements, check elements, and the actual minimum distances of checkable codes from $\mathbf{F}_q G$ are computed in many cases for $q \in \{2, 3, 4, 5\}$ and G is a non-cyclic abelian group decomposed as a product of two cyclic groups. In numerous cases, the parameters of these codes are as good as the best known ones in [10]. We call such codes *good codes*. In particular, an optimal $[36, 28, 6]$ code and a $[72, 62, 6]$ code over \mathbf{F}_5 with minimum distances improving by 1 upon [10] are found. These are called *new codes* presented in the next subsection.

In Tables I-IV, a group $G = C_r \times C_s$ of order $n = rs$ denotes the product of cyclic groups $C_r = \langle x \rangle$ and $C_s = \langle y \rangle$. A vector $u = (u_0 u_1 u_2 \dots u_{n-1}) \in \mathbf{F}_q^n$ represents the element $u(x, y) \in \mathbf{F}_q G$ with respect to the list \mathcal{L} defined in (IV.3), i.e., u is the coefficients of

$$u(x, y) = \sum_{j=0}^{s-1} \sum_{i=0}^{r-1} u_{jr+i} x^i y^j \text{ in } \mathbf{F}_q G.$$

Given positive integers n and k , the minimum distance of the $[n, k, d]$ codes displayed in the tables achieve the best known distances [10], except for the two codes with asterisk in Table IV, where the distance improves upon that of the best known ones by 1. Based on the characterizations in Section IV, the subscripts R and C indicate the reversibility and complementary duality of the codes, respectively. To save space, codes with small length, $[n, 1, n]$ and $[n, n-1, 2]$ MDS codes guaranteed by Corollary 5.3, and codes with minimum distance 2 will be omitted.

C. New Codes from Code-Checkable Group Rings

A checkable code is determined by a check element. We give the check elements of the two new checkable codes in Table IV. In addition, generator elements and the standard generator matrices of these codes are also provided. Moreover, other two optimal codes with minimum distances improving by 1 upon [10] are found by shortening a new checkable code.

The $[36, 28, 6]$ code \mathcal{C}_{36} over \mathbf{F}_5 in Table IV improves the lower bound on the minimum distance given in [10] by 1 and it is optimal. The code \mathcal{C}_{36} derived from $\mathbf{F}_5(C_6 \times C_6)$ is generated by

$$u_{36} = (021242402043131423014123232100132334)$$

with check element

$$v_{36} = (100004000410431304002224330013242110).$$

The standard generator matrix of \mathcal{C}_{36} is given by

$$\mathcal{G}_{36} = \left(\begin{array}{c|cc} & I_{27} & \\ \hline & 0_{1 \times 27} & 000111111 \end{array} \right) \begin{pmatrix} 323044040 \\ 221030034 \\ 400021324 \\ 040013243 \\ 004023041 \\ 122034033 \\ 120024112 \\ 012030244 \\ 312033000 \\ 342022220 \\ 340021142 \\ 034030442 \\ 330022241 \\ 033041113 \\ 242002413 \\ 330041333 \\ 033021300 \\ 242033210 \\ 210021311 \\ 021041020 \\ 430011312 \\ 043034414 \\ 243040132 \\ 213013421 \\ 122043340 \\ 323023204 \\ 221044011 \\ 000111111 \end{pmatrix}$$

By shortening \mathcal{C}_{36} at the 1st position, we obtain a optimal [35, 27, 6] code over \mathbf{F}_5 . Similarly, a optimal [34, 26, 6] code over \mathbf{F}_5 can be obtained by shortening \mathcal{C}_{36} at the 1st and 2nd positions. The minimum distances of these codes are improved by 1 from the lower bound given in [10].

The [72, 62, 6] code \mathcal{C}_{72} over \mathbf{F}_5 in Table IV improves the lower bound on the minimum distance given in [10] by 1. The code \mathcal{C}_{72} derived from $\mathbf{F}_5(C_6 \times C_{12})$ is generated by u_{72} with check element v_{72} .

The standard generator matrix of \mathcal{C}_{72} is given by

	3000332333012
	3000120312204
	3000440332031
	3000422034014
	3000134032304
	3000314210220
	4000430442022
	4000232442130
	4000421420233
	4000313134222
	4000011233213
	4000322110020
	3000340102141
	3000412011020
	3000133130000
	3000232231224
	3000110002020
	3000444401013
	3000344401441
	3000330402134
	3000411341024
	3000001424234
	3000010432000
	3000434444011
	3000132302413
	3000100414144
	3000443342220
	3000213202441
I_{59}	3000240343413
$\mathcal{G}_{72} =$	3000402230102
	1000243424244
	1000121011404
	1000400342033
	1000301131320
	1000423404020
	1000144114432
	0000132220334
	0000222100120
	0000231243104
	0000100013131
	0000010101313
	0000001310131
	3000012002001
	3000143234103
	3000233041134
	3000242122332
	3000111341131
	3000021124240
	1000414231330
	1000220231434
	1000333220210
	1000130141001
	1000324411222
	1000211404423
	4000244203433
	4000131434400
	4000334330144
	4000140042121
	4000203302140
	0100423411234
$\mathbf{0}_{3 \times 59}$	0010333213031
	0001324443211

$$v_{72} = (100000000441004102234010043124424101300211324012401114201004023203011413).$$

TABLE I
GOOD CHECKABLE CODES FROM F_2G

TABLE II
GOOD CHECKABLE CODES FROM \mathbf{F}_3G

n	Code \mathcal{C}	Group G	Generator Element u and Check Element v
20	$[20, 14, 4]_{R,C}$	$C_2 \times C_{10}$	$u = (02101221221212221102),$ $v = (21010201020121202120)$
24	$[24, 18, 4]_R$	$C_2 \times C_{12}$	$u = (112221001100010121120021),$ $v = (210202020202212102100221)$
	$[24, 19, 3]_R$	$C_2 \times C_{12}$	$u = (111120120021120102022202),$ $v = (100201020120222022111011)$
32	$[32, 18, 8]$	$C_4 \times C_8$	$u = (00010121101222121210121022000001),$ $v = (10000002000200020222002101121102)$
	$[32, 21, 6]$	$C_4 \times C_8$	$u = (10002112121201021100202020221100),$ $v = (11000000000211222201002102001212)$
	$[32, 25, 4]$	$C_4 \times C_8$	$u = (10222220211221211022021101222002),$ $v = (21000000002102121002121222110000)$
	$[32, 26, 4]$	$C_4 \times C_8$	$u = (10202100101020110121210020010012),$ $v = (21000011221000222100220011021100)$
	$[32, 27, 3]$	$C_4 \times C_8$	$u = (10210022020002122120010102210210),$ $v = (10010022011000112112002212211122)$
40	$[40, 33, 4]$	$C_2 \times C_{20}$	$u = (0200221122021020210111021201201122111221),$ $v = (100101010101101022100101100110010122222)$
	$[40, 34, 4]$	$C_2 \times C_{20}$	$u = (22002001002101202112210211021200101101),$ $v = (210102010201210202002121012101210121012)$
44	$[44, 36, 4]$	$C_2 \times C_{22}$	$u = (10120200202010120121001011010111022100110001),$ $v = (21010201020102200212212010121012101221120220)$
	$[44, 37, 4]$	$C_2 \times C_{22}$	$u = (2010221212120102220200002122220222021012200),$ $v = (01020102010210110120102022202220221110200111)$
48	$[48, 41, 4]_R$	$C_4 \times C_{12}$	$u = (11012110211011011100110110220020112122022220001),$ $v = (21000011012221100220011120011001022112021221100)$
	$[48, 40, 4]_R$	$C_4 \times C_{12}$	$u = (12012200021001221101020200102012001210100210002),$ $v = (121000020001222120121221000100021210222111122221)$

TABLE III
GOOD CHECKABLE CODES FROM \mathbf{F}_4G , WHERE $\mathbf{F}_4 = \{0, 1, a, a^2 = 1 + a\}$

n	Code \mathcal{C}	Group G	Generator Element u and Check Element v
18	[18, 14, 3]	$C_3 \times C_6$	$u = (a^2aa01011a^20a^2a^2aaa^2a^211),$ $v = (a1a^2111a^2a10a^210001a)$
25	[25, 16, 6] _{R,C}	$C_5 \times C_5$	$u = (1a^2001a11a0a0a^2a0a^2110111a^2aa^2),$ $v = (a1111111001a^2010a^210aa^2a100a)$
	[25, 19, 4] _{R,C}	$C_5 \times C_5$	$u = (01a^2001a0aaa^200a^2111a^20001a^2a0),$ $v = (a^2111a11a^20a^2a^2aa1a1a0a^2a^2000)$
	[25, 20, 4] _{R,C}	$C_5 \times C_5$	$u = (0a^2a^211aa^2a0aa^20a^211a0010a^2a11a^2),$ $v = (a^211a^2a11a^2aa^2a0a^2a^201a100a^2a0a^2)$
	[25, 21, 3] _{R,C}	$C_5 \times C_5$	$u = (1101000aa^2aaa^2a0a^2111a^20a^20011),$ $v = (a11a011a0aa^2a^2101a^20a^2aa1a^2a^210)$
45	[45, 38, 4]	$C_3 \times C_{15}$	$u = (0010aa^2aa^211aaa11aaa^200a01a^201aa0100a^2a0aa00a0a00),$ $v = (a1111a^211a10a^2a^20a^2111aa0a^20aa^2aa0aa^21a00a^21a^2100a^2a^20)$
	[45, 39, 4]	$C_3 \times C_{15}$	$u = (1a1aaaa^210a^2a^21aaaaaa^2aa^21a01a1a^21a^20a^21a0a^2a0a^211011a^20),$ $v = (a^2111011a^2a00a^2a11a^20aaaaaa^200aa00aa^2aa0a^211a^2a^2a00a)$
	[45, 34, 6]	$C_3 \times C_{15}$	$u = (a^2aa0aa^2aaa^21110a01aa0111a^2a0110a^21aa^2aa^2a0a^2aa^2a1a^2a^2),$ $v = (111111111100a^2a^210a011a0011aa^21a^20aa0a010a1aaa^211)$
	[45, 35, 6]	$C_3 \times C_{15}$	$u = (1a^2111a000aa^2a^21a^21aaaa^21000aa^2a10aaa^21a^20a^21a^2aa1a^210a^2),$ $v = (a^2111111a^211a^211aa1a000aa^2000100aa^2a110a^2a^20101a11)$
	[45, 40, 3]	$C_3 \times C_{15}$	$u = (101a^211a^21aa1a1a^200a^2a^21aa^20a00a0a0aa^20aaa^2aaa^20a1a^21a),$ $v = (a1a^21101aa^2a^2a^20a^2a11aa^20aa0a^2a^21aa^2a^200a^2a^2aa^21a1a^2a^2a1a^21a)$
	[45, 41, 3]	$C_3 \times C_{15}$	$u = (0a^20011a^211aa^201a1a^20a^2aa^2101a0100a^2a^20aa0a^2a0a^20aaa^21aa^2),$ $v = (a1a^210a^21a^2aa^20a01aa01a1a^201a0aa^2a^2110a^2a010a^2a1aa^201a^2)$
49	[49, 42, 4]	$C_7 \times C_7$	$u = (a^21a^2a^2011a^21a^20a^2aa^21a^2a^2a^21000010a^2a^2aa^21a^2110aaaaaa0a11a),$ $v = (a111a111a1aa1a1a11aaaaaa11a1aa1aa111a1aa111)$
50	[50, 43, 4] _R	$C_5 \times C_{10}$	$u = (01a^2aaaaa^2a^200010a^21a^2a^20aa110a11aa^21a01a11a^2111a^210a1a^2110),$ $v = (a^211a^20111111a^2a^21a11111a^211a^2000000a00a1aaaaaa00a100000)$
	[50, 44, 4] _R	$C_5 \times C_{10}$	$u = (a^2a^20a0aa1aa01aa^210a1a^21a^20a^2aa001aa^21a00a^2a^2a^210aa0001aa^2a^2a),$ $v = (a111110aa^2a1aa^201a^201aa01a^2a1aaaaaa^2101a10a^2a0a^2a11a^2a01)$

TABLE IV
GOOD CHECKABLE CODES FROM \mathbf{F}_5G

n	Code \mathcal{C}	Group G	Generator Element u and Check Element v
18	[18, 10, 6] _{R,C}	$C_3 \times C_6$	$u = (304442010212124112),$ $v = (100000004013203240)$
	[18, 13, 4] _{R,C}	$C_3 \times C_6$	$u = (111444121401433042),$ $v = (100011044233322344)$
20	[20, 15, 4] _R	$C_2 \times C_{10}$	$u = (12410122413003142121),$ $v = (10010401103443404334)$
24	[24, 19, 4]	$C_2 \times C_{12}$	$u = (223203242014333100004101),$ $v = (110103043433032211332104)$
32	[32, 26, 4]	$C_4 \times C_8$	$u = (12113331001244204302213311032203),$ $v = (14140031004303104242220311044204)$
	[32, 28, 3]	$C_4 \times C_8$	$u = (22111122403344243012322100142431),$ $v = (41200324023142132403204113423102)$
36	[36, 27, 6] _{R,C}	$C_6 \times C_6$	$u = (320132230330303404122130430344232343),$ $v = (1000010004304001100141404131131141404)$
	[36, 28, 6] _{R,C} *	$C_6 \times C_6$	$u = (021242402043131423014123232100132334),$ $v = (100004000410431304002224330013242110)$
	[36, 30, 4] _{R,C}	$C_6 \times C_6$	$u = (430221420433120003111301342330403142),$ $v = (100011024142020141102014233433232434)$
	[36, 31, 4] _{R,C}	$C_6 \times C_6$	$u = (41421243121114001024430113141242220),$ $v = (100001244134331320112211023133431442)$
40	[40, 34, 4]	$C_2 \times C_{20}$	$u = (10142414404443404241314221310400103102403),$ $v = (0104010401313313423124042404242242403322)$
	[40, 36, 3]	$C_2 \times C_{20}$	$u = (3404442420430414423443124210412401010024),$ $v = (1004042121214304324332324310211004321043)$
45	[45, 38, 4] _R	$C_3 \times C_{15}$	$u = (422214114313301102020432222411013144100033133),$ $v = (10000001132200034443344401143322122322444122)$
48	[48, 37, 6]	$C_4 \times C_{12}$	$u = (022401214232343132104344424140031221030041132043),$ $v = (100000000003314304224422430430220301424142443412)$
	[48, 41, 4]	$C_4 \times C_{12}$	$u = (033110404424400223213444240314124301040420320311),$ $v = (010001410400041412112313101143034044120221221020)$
	[48, 42, 4]	$C_4 \times C_{12}$	$u = (20042130440310124444143222431111011301122004343),$ $v = (41000023030211300442131032233214202120224312422)$
	[48, 44, 3]	$C_4 \times C_{12}$	$u = (03404342213141333234100223421301122220221033211),$ $v = (10040131412330342413422241234443100422200323034)$
72	[72, 62, 6]*	$C_6 \times C_{12}$	$u = (31241123233031314311122122301122414030013401133430420133323011301020100),$ $v = (10000000441004102234010043124424101300211324012401114201004203203011413)$

VI. CONCLUSION

We have studied checkable codes derived from the group ring $\mathbf{F}G$, where \mathbf{F} is a finite field and G is a finite abelian group. We have introduced a notion of code-checkable group rings and determined necessary and sufficient conditions for a group ring $\mathbf{F}G$ to be code-checkable. Based on this characterization, we obtained two new codes which have minimum distance better than the lower bound given in Grassl's table [10]. Various codes with minimum distance as good as the best known ones in [10] are also found. By shortening a new checkable code, we obtain other two optimal codes which have minimum distance better than the lower bound in [10]. In addition, we have proved that many $[n, 1, n]$ and $[n, n-1, 2]$ MDS codes can be constructed as checkable codes. Furthermore, when $\mathbf{F}G$ is a code-checkable group ring, the dual of a code in $\mathbf{F}G$ may be described via a check element of the code. This property generalizes the notions of the generator and parity-check polynomials of cyclic codes to the multivariate case. Moreover, we have characterized the structures of reversible and complementary dual checkable codes which are generalizations of reversible and complementary dual cyclic codes, respectively.

It would be interesting to study possible generalizations of other properties of cyclic codes to this new class of codes.

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